



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **FOUR CO-DEFENDANTS SENTENCED IN METH CASE TO TERMS UP TO 25 YEARS IN FEDERAL PRISON**

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced today that four co-defendants have been sentenced in federal court in the past two days for their role in a multi-defendant methamphetamine conspiracy.

This case, Graves said, involves a major methamphetamine conspiracy, including 21 guilty co-defendants, nearly \$1 million in proceeds derived as a result of the methamphetamine conspiracy and a second separate money laundering conspiracy intended to promote the continued distribution of methamphetamine and disguise the ownership of the proceeds.

**Jason M. Butler**, 30, and **Matthew R. Klussman**, 29, both of Independence, Mo., were sentenced U.S. District Judge Scott O. Wright this morning. **Butler** was sentenced to 10 years in federal prison without parole and **Klussman** was sentenced to three years and one month in federal prison without parole.

**Klussman** and **Butler** both pleaded guilty to conspiracy to distribute 50 grams or more of methamphetamine between Dec. 1, 2000, and April 22, 2004. The co-defendants also agreed to forfeit any proceeds derived as a result of the methamphetamine conspiracy, including approximately \$1 million and property located in Corona, Calif.

Additionally, **Peti Nofogia Iosua**, 39, who is incarcerated by the Florida Department of Corrections, and **Juan Ramon Perez**, 28, of Glendora, Calif., were sentenced on Tuesday. **Iosua** was sentenced to 25 years in federal prison without parole and **Perez** was sentenced to 14 years in federal prison without parole.

**Iosua** and **Perez** each pleaded guilty to their role in the methamphetamine conspiracy and agreed to forfeit any proceeds derived as a result of the methamphetamine conspiracy, including approximately \$1 million and property located in Corona, Calif. Additionally, **Iosua** and **Perez**

pleaded guilty to their role in a money laundering conspiracy, admitting that he conspired launder money between Dec. 1, 2000, and April 22, 2004. As a result, **Iosua** and **Perez** agreed to a second forfeiture count, requiring them to forfeit any proceeds derived as a result of their involvement in the money laundering conspiracy.

**Butler, Klussman, Iosua and Perez** are among 21 co-defendants who have pleaded guilty in this case.

On Sept. 9, 2005, **Jason C. Highley**, 26, of Independence, Mo., was sentenced to four years and nine months in federal prison without parole. **Highley** pleaded guilty to a federal information on Jan. 21, 2005, admitting that he maintained a place of residence for the purpose of distributing, using and manufacturing methamphetamine.

On Aug. 29, 2005, **Christopher L. Earley**, 27, of Independence, was sentenced to 10 years and one month in federal prison without parole for this role in the conspiracy. **Earley** also agreed to forfeit any proceeds derived as a result of the methamphetamine conspiracy, including his interest in approximately \$1 million and property located in Corona, Calif.

On Aug. 20, 2005, **Guy A. Girratono**, 28, of Independence, was sentenced to four years in federal prison without parole. **Girratono** pleaded guilty to conspiracy to distribute 50 grams or more of methamphetamine between Dec. 1, 2000, and April 22, 2004.

On Aug. 20, 2005, **Janet Castillo Martinez**, 31, of San Diego, Calif., was sentenced to five years of federal probation for her role in the conspiracy to launder money between Dec. 1, 2000, and April 22, 2004.

On Aug. 11, 2005, **Matthew S. Stewart**, 28, and **Laurie J. Pazienza**, 24, whose addresses are unknown, and **Elizabeth Ann Corley**, 24, of Kissimmee, Fla., were sentenced for their role in related conspiracies to launder money and distribute methamphetamine. **Stewart** was sentenced to 10 years in federal prison without parole, **Pazienza** was sentenced to one year and one day in federal prison without parole, and **Corley** was sentenced to probation. Each of the co-defendants also was ordered to forfeit their interest in proceeds derived as a result of their involvement in the conspiracies, Graves said. **Pazienza** and **Stewart** pleaded guilty to conspiracy to distribute 50 grams or more of methamphetamine between Dec. 1, 2000, and April 22, 2004. **Corley**, pleaded guilty to her role in a money laundering conspiracy.

On July 20, 2005, **Casey L. McElroy**, 34, Excelsior Springs, Mo., was sentenced to six years in federal prison without parole and ordered to forfeit any proceeds derived as a result of the methamphetamine conspiracy, including approximately \$1 million and property located in Corona, Calif. **McElroy** pleaded guilty on Jan. 21, 2005, to conspiracy to distribute 50 grams or more of methamphetamine between Dec. 1, 2000, and April 22, 2004, and also pleaded guilty to his role in the conspiracy to launder money during that time.

On May 17, 2005, **Matthew G. Stansbury**, 26, of Independence, was sentenced to 10 years in federal prison without parole. **Stansbury** pleaded guilty on Nov. 23, 2004, to conspiracy

to distribute 50 grams or more of methamphetamine between Dec. 1, 2000, and April 22, 2004. The court also ordered **Stansbury** to forfeit any proceeds derived as a result of the methamphetamine conspiracy, including his interest in approximately \$1 million and property located in Corona, Calif.

Additionally, seven other co-defendants also have pleaded guilty to their role in the two conspiracies to distribute methamphetamine and launder funds generated by the distribution of methamphetamine.

**Ivan M. Tofiga**, 31, of Corona, Calif., **Rickie T. Atagi**, 34, and **Joshua L. Drummond**, 26, of Independence, **Ronald Wayne Younger**, 34, and **Garrett L. Johnson**, 41, both of Blue Springs, Mo., **Spencer La Key**, 26, of Kansas City, Mo., and **Timothy A. Gorman**, 26, of Sugar Creek, Mo., each pleaded guilty to conspiracy to distribute 50 grams or more of methamphetamine between Dec. 1, 2000, and April 22, 2004.

By pleading guilty to the methamphetamine conspiracy, **Tofiga, Atagi, Drummond, Younger, Johnson, Gorman** and **Key** also agreed to forfeit any proceeds derived as a result of the methamphetamine conspiracy, including approximately \$1 million and property located in Corona, Calif.

Co-defendant **Noel Joseph Cruz**, 31, of Duarte, Calif., and **Tofiga, Younger, and Johnson**, also pleaded guilty to their role in the money laundering conspiracy. By pleading guilty, they admitted to conspiring to launder money between Dec. 1, 2000, and April 22, 2004. They also agreed to the second forfeiture count, which requires them to forfeit any proceeds derived as a result of their involvement in the money laundering conspiracy.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael S. Oliver. It was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Jackson County Drug Task Force, the Independence, Mo., Police Department, the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, the Corona, Calif., Police Department and the California Bureau of Narcotics Enforcement.

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This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

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